

November 29, 2005

Chief Hawk Pope
Shawnee Nation, United Remnant Band
2911 Elmo Place
Middletown OH 45042

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON PROPOSED FINDINGS AND
DETERMINATIONS OF EFFECT FOR THE PROPOSED AMERICAN
CENTRIFUGE PLANT, PIKE COUNTY, OHIO

Dear Chief Pope:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a copy of your letter written in late March 2005, from Mr. Geoffrey Sea. We had intended to provide you a copy of the document "Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, Ohio, Draft Report for Comment," (DEIS), however, it has come to our attention that you were inadvertently left off the mailing list. The DEIS is enclosed for your review.

The NRC has undertaken the steps of identifying and evaluating historic properties that may be affected by construction and operation of the proposed American Centrifuge Plant. The NRC found that there have been surveys conducted previously to find archaeological and historic sites in the area of the proposed project.

Within the DEIS, information on cultural and historic resources can be found in Section 3.3, "Historic and Cultural Resources," which provides a description of the identification and evaluation process. Also, Section 4.2.2 "Historic and Cultural Resource Impacts," presents the NRC's preliminary findings related to this undertaking, including a description of the "area of potential effects" and preliminary determinations of project effect.

Specifically, the location of proposed ACP is described on pages 3-1 to 3-2. A description of existing cultural and historic resources near this location is provided on pages 3-5 through 3-11. Included in this description is the location and condition of the earthworks known as the "Barnes Works" or "Scioto Township Works."

Possible project effects are discussed on pages 4-4 to 4-7. The reasons that NRC does not expect the project to have any effects on the "Scioto Township Works" is discussed at the tops of pages 4-6 and 4-7, respectively. Specifically, the earthworks are more than one half mile from the construction area and outside the fenced reservation boundary. Construction and operation of the centrifuge plant will not change the existing setting and feeling of the earthworks site, which has been previously affected by agriculture, quarrying, and the construction and use of U.S. Route 23.

Mr. Sea had also expressed concern about what appear to be earthworks at the wellfield that will supply water for the project. The DEIS presents a discussion of impacts to the wellfield on

page 4-7 and the NRC's findings that there would be no effect on these apparent earthworks. Subsequent to publication of the DEIS, NRC received a statement from Mr. Blaine Bleekman (enclosure), a local resident, who described construction of three levies along the Scioto River after 1959, including the levy that Mr. Sea was concerned about. Thus, it is the NRC's position that the apparent earthworks at the wellfields are flood control levies.

The NRC welcomes your input and comment on the findings of its inventory and evaluation effort and its preliminary determination of effect on the Scioto Township Works site. If you can provide information about site's importance to the United Remnant Band, the NRC will be able to consider this in development of the final Environmental Impact Statement.

We hope that this information will be helpful in explaining the project and NRC's evaluation of its potential effect on historic and cultural resources. The NRC requests a response from the tribe by January 16, 2006. Please feel free to respond in writing or to contact Matthew Blevins by phone at 301-415-7684 or by e-mail at MXB6@nrc.gov. Mr. Blevins will be happy to set up a meeting or telephone conference to facilitate the consultation.

Sincerely,

/RA/

B. Jennifer Davis, Chief
Environmental Review Section
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-7004

Enclosures: As stated

cc: w/o enclosures, see attached list

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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